

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 692

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Richard and Glenda Watson on the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 1964, Richard and Glenda Watson were joined in holy matrimony, and since that fateful day, this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, the story of Mr. and Mrs. Watson's whirlwind romance begins at the Burdette Chapel Church in Birchwood, Tennessee, in July of 1963; and

WHEREAS, Richard and Glenda had talked by telephone, and Richard had expressed interest in meeting Glenda, but she was trepidatious; and

WHEREAS, Glenda finally told him about a revival meeting to be held at her church, and when she finally met Richard on that fateful Saturday night, her worst fears were allayed because she found the young Mr. Watson to be quite charming and handsome; and

WHEREAS, Richard and Glenda then dated for nine months before tying the knot on March 7, 1964, with Justice of the Peace Paul Cartwright officiating; in attendance at this momentous event were the bride's parents, Emma Jean and Thomas, and sister, Bobbie Jean Cartwright, and the groom's mother, Bertie Watson; and

WHEREAS, fast forward fifty years and Mr. and Mrs. Watson are highly respected citizens of their community and the very epitome of good neighbors, as they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Mr. Watson was ordained as a Baptist minister and spent his days spreading the good news of the Gospel; one of his pastorates was Burdette Baptist Church, the very spot where the Watsons had first met in 1963; and

WHEREAS, some might call this coincidence or serendipity, but to Mr. and Mrs. Watson, it further confirms the presence of God's love and guidance in their life together; and

WHEREAS, today, Richard and Glenda Watson are the patriarch and matriarch of a large and loving family that includes three children and their spouses and nine grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Watsons' children are Keith Watson and his wife, the former Karen Collins; Cheryl and her husband, Michael Lee; and our most valued colleague, Representative Eric Watson and his wife, the former Tenille Crabtree; their grandchildren include Austin, Rebecca, and Hannah Watson; Brandon and Britney Lee; and Summer, Hunter, MacKenzie, and Kalyn Watson; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Watsons' are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the family and many friends of Richard and Glenda Watson in honoring and congratulating this special couple on the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary and extend to Mr. and Mrs. Watson our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.